

SB 5843-S2.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Finds that: (1) Reliable data on student progress, characteristics of students and schools, and teacher qualifications and mobility is critical for accountability to the state and to the public;

(2) Educational data should be made available as widely as possible while appropriately protecting the privacy of individuals as provided by law;

(3) School districts and the office of the superintendent of public instruction need robust and compatible data systems and programs to reduce inefficiencies caused by the lack of connectivity and to minimize or eliminate multiple data entry; and

(4) Schools and districts should be supported in their management of educational data and should have access to user-friendly programs and reports that can be readily used by classroom teachers and building principals to improve instruction.

Requires the office of the superintendent of public instruction to, to the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, conduct a feasibility study on establishing a statewide longitudinal student-teacher data system. The primary purpose of the data system is to better aid research into programs and interventions that are most effective in improving student performance and to provide information on areas within the educational system that need improvement.

Requires a preliminary set of data elements to be developed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction by December 2007. The feasibility study shall include conducting pilot studies on the collection of this preliminary set of identified data elements in two school districts, with one over twenty thousand in full-time equivalent enrollment and the other less than two thousand in full-time equivalent enrollment.

Authorizes the office of superintendent of public instruction to establish a longitudinal student data system for and on behalf of school districts in the state. Personally identifiable student data will be safeguarded consistent with the requirements of the federal family educational rights privacy act and any relevant state laws.